

# SMART GROWTH IN FRANKLIN COUNTY



# Franklin County at a Glance

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- ❖ 72,000 people across 725 square miles
- ❖ 26 towns
  - Greenfield population 18,000
  - Monroe population 93
  - Only four towns have populations over 5,000
- ❖ Only two towns have professional planning staff

# Franklin County Growth Trends

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- ❖ Relatively slow population growth since 1990 – slower than Hampshire County and State
- ❖ 1999 land use - 75% of county forested, 9% cropland or pasture
- ❖ Some development pressures in south county but development pressure fairly limited
- ❖ Allows region to plan proactively rather than reactively

# Development Trends in Pioneer Valley

## Comparison of Population and Developed Land Use Acres for the Counties of the Pioneer Valley

<b>Franklin County</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Developed Acres</b>	<b>Developed Acres per Person</b>
1970/ 1971	59,233	21,458	0.36
2000/ 1999	71,535	31,618	0.44
Difference	12,302	10,160	
Percent Change	20.8%	47.3%	
<b>Hampden County</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Developed Acres</b>	<b>Developed Acres per Person</b>
1970/ 1971	459,050	75,154	0.16
2000/ 1999	456,228	92,580	0.20
Difference	-2,822	17,426	
Percent Change	-0.6%	23.2%	-
<b>Hampshire County</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>Developed Acres</b>	<b>Developed Acres per Person</b>
1970/ 1971	123,997	29,862	0.24
2000/ 1999	152,251	44,865	0.29
Difference	28,254	15,003	
Percent Change	22.8%	50.2%	



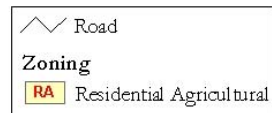
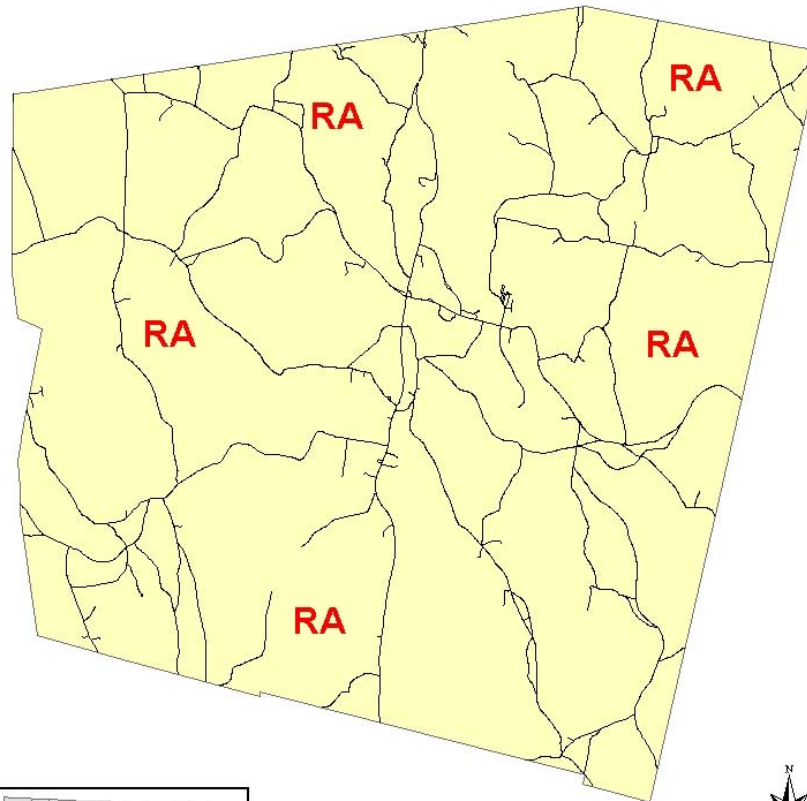


# Buckland Building Permits

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- ❖ 54 building permits issued between 1993 and 2002
- ❖ Permits on 19 different roads
- ❖ 5 of the roads are in the village center
- ❖ 14 of the roads are in outlying rural areas and 6 of the roads are unpaved

# Town of Ashfield Zoning



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# Regional Smart Growth Efforts in Franklin County

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- ❖ Joint Master Planning in Buckland and Shelburne
- ❖ Executive Order 418 Regional Certification
- ❖ Regional Brownfields Program
- ❖ Regional Industrial Park Survey
- ❖ Strong and active Regional Housing Authority and CDC and strong regional coordination



# Other Smart Growth Opportunities for Rural Areas

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- Pilot Regional Smart Growth Plan
- Additional technical assistance to rural towns for planning and zoning revisions
- Increase in open space funding for protection of farmland, water supply recharge areas, and critical habitat areas
- Revisions to Chapter 40A and 41A, especially ANR